(d) whether the Government are planning to sell the assets of such textile mills for the commercial use?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) There are no outstanding payments to the employees who opted for the Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme in the closed textile mills of National Textile Corporation (NTC).

(c) As per the Rehabilitation Schemes approved by Government/BIFR, the sale value of the surplus assets of NTC mills is estimated to be Rs. 2,829 cr. Realisation of this amount is however, subject to getting permission for sale from various State Governments and the market conditions.

(d) As per the Rehabilitation Schemes of NTC, the surplus assets would be sold in a transparent manner through Open Tenders as per the existing land use.

Ban on import of worn readymade clothing

2464. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE :

SHRI RUDRANARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any suggestion from the Clothing Manufacturers'Association of India to ban the import of huge volumes of worn readymade clothing into Kandia SEZ from different countries for domestic sale as it is contributing to a major loss of foreign exchange to the country as per media reports;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the cheap sale of these imported worn garments are potentially affecting the employment of 72 lakh workers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/to be taken by Government to protect the indigenous textile industry in future?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The imported used clothes compete unfairly with the domestic garment industry. The downstream spinning and weaving industry is also affected, as the local fabrics are not used. This adversely affect the employment avenues. The import of used clothing have increased from Rs. 17.46 crores in 1998-99 to Rs. 278.62 crores in 2003-04.

(d) The Government has already imposed restrictions on the import of used clothes by bringing them under the 'Restricted List of Imports' *vide* Notification No 7/2004-09 dated the 27th October, 2004 issued by Department of Commerce

Decrease in production of cotton cloth

†2465. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been decrease in the production of cotton cloth in comparison to 1947;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed by Government to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a), No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

NTC mills

2466. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of NTC mills in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of mills that the Government closed down during the last ten years; year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) what are the reasons behind closing down the above mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) There are 54 mills under NTC Ltd., speard all over India, controlled by 9 Subsidrary Corporations. The list of the mills 'State-wise' is given in the enclosed Statement-I (See below).

(b) Government has closed 66 mills over the last ten years. The State-wise list of closed mills is given in the enclosed Statement-ll (See below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.